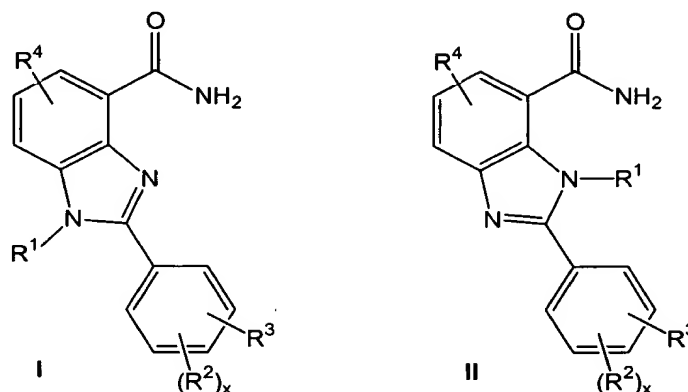


In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

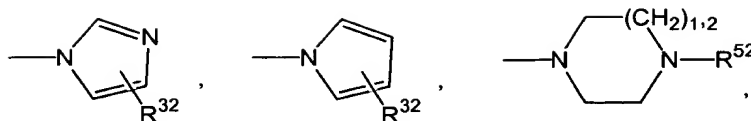
1. (Previously Presented) A compound of the Formula I or II



in which

- R¹ is hydrogen, or branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and
- R² is hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro, NHCOR²¹, NR²²R²³, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NH₂, CN, a straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR²¹ or phenyl, it also being possible for the phenyl rings to be substituted by at most two radicals R²⁴, and R²¹ and R²², independently of one another, are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and R²³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and R²⁴ is OH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro or NH₂, and
- x may be 0, 1 or 2 and
- R³ is -D-(F¹)_p-(E)_q-(F²)_r-G, where p, q and r may not simultaneously be 0, or is -E-(D)_u-(F²)_s-(G)_v, it also being

possible for the radical E to be substituted by one or two radicals A, and if v = 0, E is imidazole, pyrrole, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, or R³ is -O-(CH₂)_o-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G,



or R^3 is B, and

R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, OH or O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

R^{32} is hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$ or $-(CH_2)_p-G$,

m and o independently of each other are 0, 1, or 2 and

n may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R^4 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3 , CN, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, $NH-CO-R^{43}$ or O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, where R^{41} and R^{42} , independently of one another, are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

R^{43} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl or phenyl, and

D is S or O, and

E is phenyl, imidazole, pyrrole, thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, furan, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrrolidine, piperidine or trihydroazepine, and

F^1 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, and

F^2 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, and

p may be 0 or 1,

q may be 0 or 1,

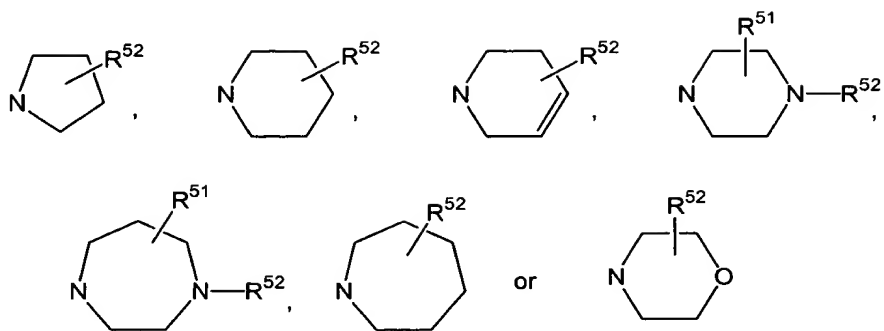
r may be 0 or 1,

s may be 0 or 1,

u may be 0 or 1,

v may be 0 or 1, and

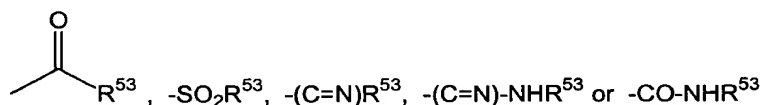
G may be $\text{NR}^{51}\text{R}^{52}$ or



and

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$ or $(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-K}$, and

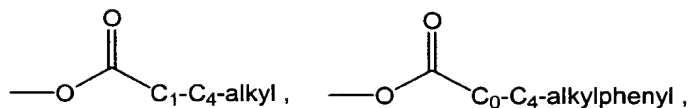
R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, COCH_3 , COCF_3 , phenyl,



in which

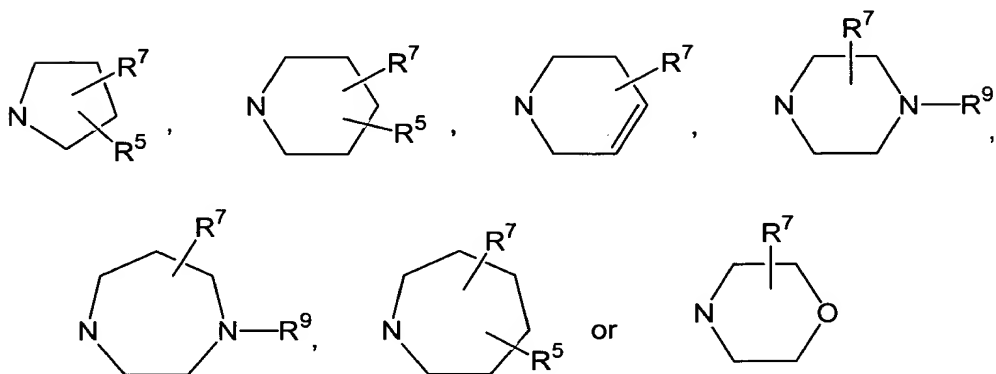
R^{53} may be branched or unbranched $\text{O-C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, phenyl or branched or unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylphenyl}$, where in the case of R^{52} and R^{53} , independently of one another, one hydrogen of the $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$ radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH , $\text{O-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, it also being possible for

the carbocycles of the radicals R^{52} and R^{53} , independently of one another, to carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, branched or unbranched $\text{O-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, OH , F , Cl , Br , I , CF_3 , NO_2 , NH_2 , CN , COOH , $\text{COOC}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, CCl_3 , $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylamino}$, $\text{SO}_2\text{-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, SO_2phenyl , CONH_2 , $\text{CONH-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, CONHphenyl , $\text{CONH-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylphenyl}$, $\text{NHSO}_2\text{-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{NHSO}_2\text{phenyl}$, $\text{S-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$,



CHO, CH₂-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CH₂O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -CH₂OH, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or two radicals form a bridge -O-(CH₂)_{1,2}-O-,

B may be



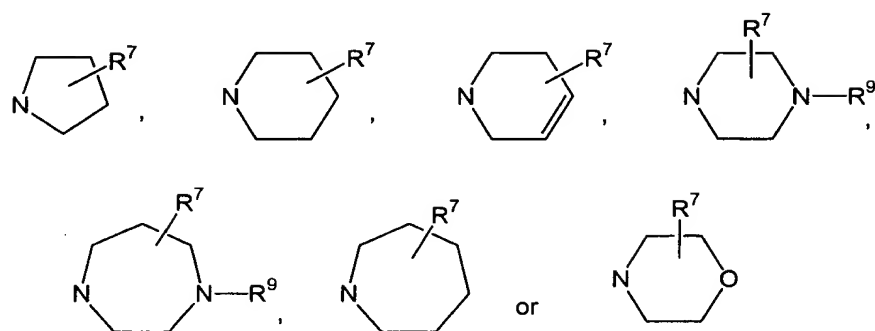
and

A may be hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NH₂, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, CN or NH-CO-R³³, where R³³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

t is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 and

K is phenyl, NR^{k1}R^{k2} where R^{k1} and R^{k2} are as defined for R⁴¹ and R⁴² respectively, NH-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

R^5 may be hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, NR^7R^9 and



and

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl or phenyl, it also being possible for the rings to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{71} , and

R^{71} is OH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , nitro or NH_2 , and

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, it also being possible for the ring to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{81} , and

R^{81} is OH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , nitro, or NH_2 , and

R^9 is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, $CO-O-C_1-C_4$ -alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, it being possible for one or two hydrogens of the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical to be substituted in each case by one of the following radicals: OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl, and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: iodine, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched or unbranched C_1 - C_6 -

alkyl, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, CN, CF₃ or SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or diastereomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R¹ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R² is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CF₃, CN, NH-CO-R²¹, or OR²¹, where

R²¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R³ is -O-(CH₂)_o-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G, where

R³¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

m and o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

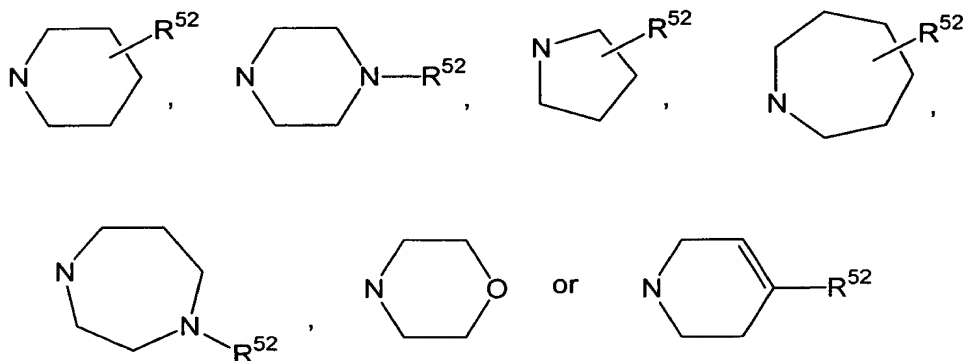
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R⁴ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, NR⁴¹R⁴², NH-CO-R⁴³, or OR⁴¹, where

R⁴¹ and R⁴² are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R⁴³ is C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

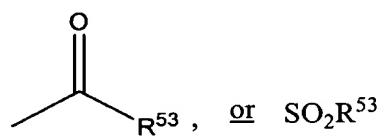
G is NR⁵¹R⁵² or one of the following radicals



where

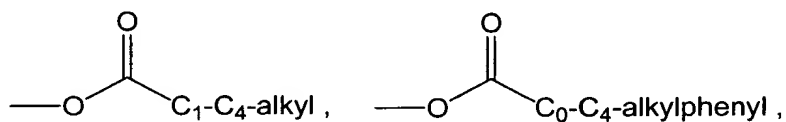
R^{51} is hydrogen and branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, and

R^{52} hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl,



in which

R⁵³ is branched or unbranched O-C₁-C₆-alkyl, phenyl, branched or unbranched C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, where one hydrogen in the C₁-C₆-alkyl radical in R⁵² and R⁵³ can, independently of one another, be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R⁵² and R⁵³ radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH, F, Cl, Br, I, CF₃, NO₂, NH₂, CN, COOH, COOC₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, CCl₃, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, SO₂phenyl, CONH₂, CONH-C₁-C₄-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, NHSO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, NHSO₂phenyl, S-C₁-C₄-alkyl,



CHO, CH₂-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CH₂O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, -CH₂OH, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, SO₂NH₂, or -SO₂NH-C₁-C₄-alkyl

and two radicals form a bridge -O-(CH₂)_{1,2}-O-,

or the tautomeric form, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, the prodrugs thereof, and ~~pharmacologically~~ physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

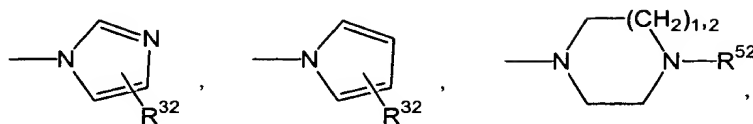
R¹ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R² is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CF₃, CN, NH-CO-R²¹, OR²¹, where

R^{21} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

R^3 is



and

R^{32} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$, where R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, OH or O - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

m and o independently of one another are 0, 1 or 2 and

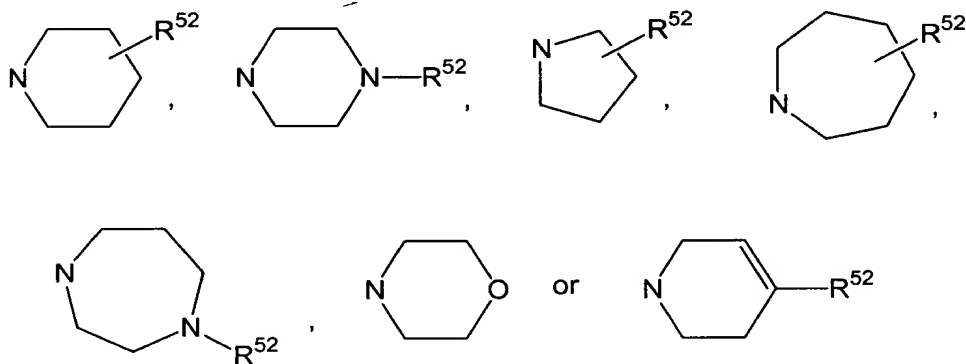
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, $NH-CO-R^{43}$, or OR^{41} , where

R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

R^{43} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl, and

G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the radicals below



where

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and

R^{52} is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, $CO-O-C_1-C_4$ -alkyl, $COCF_3$ or branched and unbranched

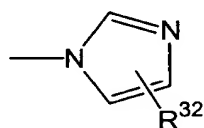
C₁-C₆-alkyl, it being possible for one hydrogen of the C₁-C₆-alkyl radical to be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl and phenyl and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₄-alkyl, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl and CN, SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, and the tautomeric forms, a possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, the prodrugs thereof, and physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R² is in position 3 and R³ is in position 4 or R² is in position 4 and R³ is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R¹ and R⁴ are hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R² is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CN, NH₂, or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl.

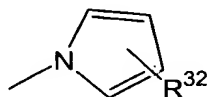
7. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 where
(i) for R³ being



R³² is hydrogen or -(CH₂)_p-G, where

p is 1 or 2 and

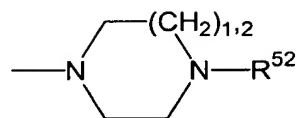
(ii) for R³ being



R^{32} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_p-G$, where

p is 1 or 2 and

and (iii) for R^3 being



R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6 -alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6 -alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O- C_1-C_4 -alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of

the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4 -alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylamino, OH, O- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, CN, and $SO_2-C_1-C_4$ -alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^3 is $-D-(F^1)_p-(E)_q-(F^2)_r-G$ where D is O, F^1 is a C_1-C_4 carbon chain, p is 1, q is 0 and r is 0.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^5 is a 6-membered ring and R^{52} is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10. (Previously Presented) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an

effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal suffering from said disorder.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative disease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is stroke or craniocerebral trauma.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's disease.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is epilepsy.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or

damage resulting after kidney transplants.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a microinfarct.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct or damage during an after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an immunological disease.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)